

January 11, 2019

Dear Richard Flanders (Scholarship Chair),

I hope you're doing well! I'm currently home in Colorado for winter break, relaxing and skiing every day. While I'm home I wanted to send you an update about my program and my life in Paris so far.

So far, I love my program. It's quite different from Stanford, which I think is mainly a good thing just for a change of pace. The journalism portion focuses on mainly on workshops and they send us out to do reporting and film our own pieces, etc. so it's been really exciting and challenging. I made a mini-documentary (only about 5 minutes) with a partner about a woman from Syria who fled Assad's regime and is studying in Paris now, and I'm quite proud of that. She has a phenomenal story and is such a wonderful person.

For the International Affairs program, I'm getting a master in Human Rights and Humanitarian Action, and I'm in a track through the law school that focuses on European and French migration and asylum law. I'm partnered with two other girls and we're working with the association Comede, which helps Dubliners seeking asylum who have serious medical conditions and want to apply for asylum in France to continue their treatment. We're creating a guide for Comede on how to advise other actors (doctors, lawyers, etc.) during the process because there's no clear legal structure. They also assigned us each a case of a Dubliner who is in the process and we're expected to accompany them to their appointments at the préfecture and their meetings with other associations like Cimade. It's quite stressful since French is not my first language, and we're working with people whose lives are being directly affected by this process, but I'm learning so much.

I'm so incredibly grateful for the Rotary scholarship each day, especially because Paris is such an expensive city, and I truly do not know how I would survive without it--especially since I am in between 20 and 25 hours of class every week, and with homework on top of that I really don't have time to work a part time job.

I hope everything is going well in California, and I hope to hear from you soon.

Best,
Sophie Stuber
(Rotary District 5170 Global Grant Scholar Recipient)